

---

# THREE SPOKANE MUSHROOMS

---

Spokane is a city of mushroom growth and until a few years ago was simply a small railroad center. The great irrigation, mining, lumbering, wheat farming and other industries which have lately sprung into existence have called into being a fair sized city. Like many other such rapid growth towns, Spokane has retained many nondescript officials, men who were fitted to the village era, but unable to handle the same position in a third-class city. Tradition and custom lead the people to select their officials in much the same manner as they did when the town was small. They seize on some popular incompetent and stick him into a job for which he utterly is unfitted. Spokane has a choice assortment of officials who have gained their positions through either this method or by virtue of growing into good positions as the city grew.

Acting Chief of Police Sullivan is one who achieved fame and a fat job

by the latter route. Nineteen years ago he reached Spokane a braw Irish lad and as he was very much averse to work he secured a position as policeman. From that time he prospered and by just simply clinging fast to the body politic like a bott fly to a horse he has arrived at his present notorious position as Acting Chief of Police.

• • •

Before becoming chief of police a year ago Sullivan was a captain, and as his pension would become due in two years he decided to gain this pension by hook or crook, and when the position of chief was offered to him he refused to accept it outright, and thus sacrifice his police service. He was afraid he couldn't make good as chief, and as a diamical would make him forfeit his chances for a pension he, with his customary cowardice, retained his job as captain, thereby leaving a bridge over which he can retreat if necessary. The police outrages now being perpetrated in Spokane are the result of efforts of this cowardly time-server to make good.

• • •

Mr. Sullivan is a very generous man and when any I. W. W. cases are on gives the prosecuting attorneys the benefit of his vast fund of legal knowledge. He is one of the scab witnesses who are playing such a prominent part in this fight. The police get no money for appearing as witnesses, so in order to make the cost of this foolish fight less burdensome to the taxpayer, the prosecution's witnesses are limited to policemen as much as possible.

• • •

Mr. Sullivan's chief characteristic is his conceit. He imagines that he is an intellectual giant. His advent into the witness chair is always the signal for a comical proceeding, as his intangled ignorance and conceit is ludicrous in the extreme. Even in police circles this is noted and appreciated.

Mr. Sullivan is not an "ignorant foreigner," although he was born in Ireland and knows about as little as a man can well know. He is said to be prominent in local A. P. A. circles.

• • •

Another Spokane official who is shining brightly during this controversy is Judge Mann of the municipal police court. Judge Mann does not believe that the shoemaker should stick to his last. He rather thinks he should take up law and cobble that as best he can. When not trying I. W. W. men Judge Mann is consistent, and so he puts his theory into his practice. He is a jack of all trades, and has been a newspaper man, telegrapher, printer, actor, clerk, judge, etc. He himself has stated that he has known the relish of free lunch in the barrel houses of Chicago when he was too poor to indulge in the luxury of a meal at his own expense. He also knows the pleasures of long jaunts via the side-door Pullman, as it was by this route that he came West, seven years ago.

• • •

In the early days of his advent in Spokane Judge Mann was a vaudeville actor (he still pursues the calling at

# Three Spokane Mushrooms

Continued from Page One

his court, in his "part" as judge. It is rumored that he was a "supe," but this is unconfirmed. After many vicissitudes he secured a soft snap as clerk in the police court, and after four years of this he became police judge by virtue of the Republican victory last fall.

\* \* \*

It is this one-year-old judge who is interpreting the constitution in such an original manner in Spokane. Perhaps his conduct is explicable when it is understood that he is very ambitious. A few days ago Judge Sullivan of the Superior Court met Mann in the county courthouse, and jokingly asked him if he had assumed jurisdiction over "here." Mann stated that he had not, but that he had hopes. Mann is faithfully serving the masters here and will doubtless achieve his ambition.

\* \* \*

Mayor Pratt is another of the stars featured in the little extravaganza being staged in Spokane at the present time. Judge Mann used to belong to the Typographical Union and is a friend of labor, but in his proffers of friendship he is outdone by the suave Pratt, who wheedled a large portion of organized labor into voting for him.

This gentleman secured his present place through some allged gerrymandering of votes a year ago. He is a

Democrat, and it is alleged that many Democrats registered as Republicans for the primaries and secured the nomination of Mr. Omo, a weak candidate, on the Republican ticket. Then Pratt, a well-liked man, was nominated on the Democratic ticket, and he drew heavily from the Republican candidate who ran far behind the rest of the ticket, which was elected. The motto in Spokane is: "Everything is fair in love or war, or at any other time."

\* \* \*

The City officials pretend to be terribly frightened at the threatening letter alleged to have been sent to Judge Mann from Chicago. At the I. W. W. headquarters the responsibility for the letter, if any such missive exists, is laid at the door of some of the parasites infesting the city hall. Judge Mann now has the honor of a bodyguard of six big burles, who are on this slight pretext allowed to batten upon the body politic. Perhaps the taxpayers of Spokane will eventually wake up to the fact that they are being played for suckers by the various public officials who are making good for the Washington Water Power Co.

\* \* \*

Judge Mann has applied for another clerk (\$90 a month), as the I. W. W. business has become too great for one clerk to handle it. And the fight hasn't got started; it is only in the experimental stages as yet.